



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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REMINDER OF FEDERAL PERMIT INFORMATION CHANGE NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT, AND SOUTH ATLANTIC ROCK SHRIMP VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM (VMS) REQUIREMENTS, AND VMS REIMBURSEMENT DEADLINE

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) issues this reminder that the owner or operator of a vessel with a permit, a person with a coral permit, a person with an operator permit, or a dealer with a permit issued by NOAA Fisheries' Southeast Region, must notify NOAA in writing to the Constituency Services Branch (CSB), 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702 within 30 days after any change in the application information. The application information most critical to administration of NOAA Fisheries' permit program includes name, address, vessel ownership, homeport, horsepower and vessel overall length, as specified on the permit. For instance, if you do not provide accurate address changes in a timely manner, NOAA Fisheries will be unable to notify you of permit renewal information, application deadlines or other important fishery management regulatory changes. **You do not have to pay an administrative fee to advise NOAA Fisheries of the changes in your application information to comply with the 30-day notification requirement.** The above information is a partial summary of regulatory requirements contained in 50 CFR 622.4(c)

NOAA Fisheries also issues this reminder of the procedure for partial reimbursement to rock shrimp limited access endorsement holders for up to \$775 for initial acquisition and installation of an approved vessel monitoring system (VMS). To receive the reimbursement, the vessel owner must provide valid signed receipts for purchase and installation of an approved VMS to the CSB Branch, at the above address by December 19, 2004, to be processed. **All reimbursement requests must be received or hand-delivered to NOAA Fisheries by December 19, 2004. Requests received or hand-delivered after December 19, 2004, will be returned to the sender without reimbursement.** The vessel owner must also confirm with NOAA Southeast Enforcement,

same address, telephone: (727) 570-5344, Monday-Friday between 8:00a.m. and 5:00 p.m. that the VMS is functioning.

Reminder of VMS Requirements: As specified in 50 CFR §622.9(a), as of October 14, 2003, an owner or operator of a vessel that has been issued a limited access endorsement for South Atlantic rock shrimp must ensure that such vessel has a NOAA Fisheries approved, operating VMS on board when on a trip in the South Atlantic. Additionally, 50 CFR 622.9(b) indicates that only a VMS that has been approved by NOAA Fisheries for use in the South Atlantic rock shrimp fishery may be used. When installing and activating the approved VMS, or when reinstalling and reactivating such VMS, the vessel owner or operator must: (1) follow procedures indicated on an installation and activation checklist, which is available from NOAA Fisheries, Office of Enforcement and (2) submit to NOAA Fisheries, Office of Enforcement, Southeast Region, a statement certifying compliance with the checklist, as prescribed on the checklist.

As stated in 50 CFR 622.9(c) No person may interfere with, tamper with, alter, damage, disable, or impede the operation of the VMS, or attempt in any of the same. Additionally, in accordance with 50 CFR 622.9(d), when a vessel's VMS is not operating properly, the owner or operator must immediately contact NOAA Fisheries, Office of Enforcement and follow instructions from that office. If notified by NOAA Fisheries that a vessel's VMS is not operating properly, the owner and operator must follow instructions from that office. In either event, such instructions may include, but are not limited to, manually communicating to a location designated by NOAA Fisheries the vessel's positions or returning to port until the VMS is operable.

The purpose for the VMS requirements is to protect the Oculina Bank HAPC.

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